

CITY Visions

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'Top Choice' For Library Site Announced

THE MORGAN HILL Redevelopment Agency selected the Civic Center site as the top choice for the new Morgan Hill Library. This site, the vacant land behind the existing library, is particularly attractive because it is already owned by the City and development planning can commence immediately. Other sites receiving consideration, including land on Edmundson and Dunne Avenues, are currently under private ownership. Obtaining these properties might have substantially delayed the development process.

City staff will now proceed with obtaining an architect to design the new library, preparing an environmental review, and preparing applications to receive State Library Bond funds when they become available. The new building will be approximately 40,000 square feet and should serve the community for at least the next twenty years. ☞

Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager,
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No Script For 'Real Life' 911 Emergency Dispatchers

Police Dispatch Center: "911 emergency, what are you reporting?"

Caller: "I think there's a prowler in my house," the female caller whispers into the phone.

Police Dispatch Center: "Ma'am confirm your address of 123 East Street and your phone number is 555-000?"

Caller: "Yes, that's correct. I hear something downstairs."

Police Dispatch Center: "Ma'am the police are on the way. Please stay on the line with me. What are you hearing?"

Caller: "Well, I heard a loud crash, like glass breaking and—"

IT MIGHT be the kind of real life drama you see on the Rescue 911 television series. But the above is an abridged version of one of the many hundreds of emergency calls handled by the Morgan Hill Police Department's 911 Dispatchers.

911 Dispatchers or Public Safety Dispatchers are often the first contact many people have with the police department. They are responsible for communications between the public needing assistance and the police officers that will respond. Dispatchers play

NOTES & NEWS

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

A General Municipal Election was held on November 7, 2000. Based on the election results, the City Council certified the results on December 6, 2000. Oaths of Office were administered to the following elected officials: Mayor Dennis Kennedy, Councilmember Larry Carr, Councilmember Hedy Chang, City Treasurer Michael J. Roorda, and City Clerk Irma Torrez.

The City Council appointed Councilmember Greg Sellers to serve one year as Mayor Pro Tempore of the City Council. Mayor Pro Tempore Sellers will act in Mayor Kennedy's stead should the Mayor not be able to attend City Council meetings, functions, or events. The Redevelopment Agency appointed Councilmember Larry Carr to serve one year as Vice-chairperson of the Redevelopment Agency. Vice-Chairman Carr will act in Chairman Kennedy's stead should he not be able to attend Redevelopment Agency meetings, functions or events.

WHERE'S THE FIRE?

The City is now preparing a new Master Plan for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services that will identify the City's anticipated future needs and recommend alternative approaches for meeting them. What do you think it is important for the consultants to know? Should the City build a new fire station? Should all citizens be offered CPR training?

In order to develop a plan that accurately depicts our community's needs, it is essential to have a complete understanding of the important issues. If you have something to share, come to a Public Forum at 7 PM on Thursday, February 1 at City Hall.

RECYCLING REMINDERS

As a part of our ongoing efforts to increase the City's recycling rate, only cardboard set out with recycling will be collected. Cardboard set out with the garbage will be left on the curb with an explanatory notice.

Recycling calendars featuring the artwork of local children were mailed to all residents in December. Check your address label to determine if your recycling week is A or B. If you did not receive a calendar, please call 779-7247 to request one.

WINTER RECREATION CLASSES OFFERED

Register yourself or your children for a City of Morgan Hill Recreation class. Below is just a sample of some of the classes offered. Call 779-7271 ext 273 for more information. Preregistration is required.



Kids Activities Skateboarding Basics for Kids starts in February • Kids Yoga Workshop starts in January • Kids Street Jam starts in January • Preschool Ballet starts in January • Music Together for infants, toddlers and parents starts in January. • Kids Craft Classes starts in February • S.K.W.E.R.T. Safer Kids with Emergency Response Training starts in April • Look for our mobile recreation van during spring break • Art ala Carte on May 12th

Teen Activities Street Jam classes in January • Sharks game in March • Biking in April • Hiking in May and more.

Adult Activities Biking in April • Hiking in May • Yoga • Beginning Golf Clinic • Therapeutic Recreation • Spring Dance in April

MILLENNIUM POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The City wishes to thank the 240 Morgan Hill students that participated in the Millennium Poster Contest. Posters are on display at City Hall. Congratulations to the following winners!

KINDERGARTEN - 4TH GRADE

1ST PLACE: ERIC LAU SAN MARTIN/GWINN GR 2

2ND PLACE: ARIEL MOSBRUCKER EL TORO GR 4

3RD PLACE: NICK WELDON CARDEN ACADEMY GR 1

HONORABLE MENTION: RACHEL CHENOWETH JACKSON GR 3

5TH - 8TH GRADE

1ST PLACE: JINA PARK/PARADISE VALLEY GR 6

2ND PLACE: MAIA MARTUCCI/ST. CATHERINE'S GR 5

3RD PLACE: KELLY ROSE JOYCE/CARDEN ACADEMY GR 5

HONORABLE MENTION: SHAILA PATEL/NORDSTROM GR 6

9TH - 12TH GRADE

1ST PLACE: REBECCA LEVERTON/LIVE OAK GR 12

2ND PLACE: MIKE NORTON/MARTIN MURPHY GR 9

3RD PLACE: OLIVIA ESENBOCK/MARTIN MURPHY GR 9

HONORABLE MENTION: DEBORAH PINK/MARTIN MURPHY GR 9

Spare the Air Year-Round




THERE IS no predicting summer air pollution from one year to the next. Whether there's an El Nino, a La Nina, or (as in the case of this year) no Nino at all, the story rewrites itself every year. We were lucky this past summer, with relatively low levels of air pollution due to strong onshore winds and moderate temperatures, but having one good summer is no reason to retire our vigilance.

Fighting air pollution is a year round necessity. While everyone knows about summer smog in California, fewer people understand there is a wintertime problem as well. Fine particulates and carbon monoxide affect a growing segment of our population who have asthma, environmental sensitivity syndromes or other respiratory diseases. That's why we're asking you to stay on-board with us over the next few months when wintertime pollution peaks in the Bay Area.

Particulate pollution is at its worst from late November through January. Particulate matter includes dust, soot, ash and smoke. It can remain suspended in the air for many days and is a major component of air pollution. Particulate pollution is most severe in the cold months when climatic inversions trap particulates close to the ground in the breathing layer. Particulates can cause coughing, shortness of breath and even permanent lung damage. Most particulate pollution in the Bay Area comes from chimney smoke and tail pipe exhaust.

SPARE THE AIR IN THE WINTERTIME:

- Eliminate or limit wood burning in your fire-place or wood stove.
- Avoid unnecessary driving. Carpool, walk, bicycle or use mass transit as much as possible. For transit info call 817-1717.
- Switch to a natural gas fireplace or EPA-certified wood stove or fireplace insert.
- Burn manufactured composition logs. They produce 50% less pollution.
- If you must burn wood, learn to "Light it Right" with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Wood Burning Handbook. It's available at no charge at City Hall. Call 779-7247 to request your free copy.

For more information about wintertime air pollution call 1-800-HELP AIR or visit www.sparetheair.org 

Article by Andi Borowski, Environmental Programs Assistant, 779-7247 or andib@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

Local Programming Channel 17

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

1/9 7 P.M. LIVE - 1/10 NOON REPLAY - 1/13 NOON REPLAY
1/23 7 P.M. LIVE - 1/24 NOON REPLAY - 1/27 NOON REPLAY
1/30 7 P.M. LIVE - 1/31 NOON REPLAY - 2/3 NOON REPLAY

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

1/10 7 P.M. LIVE - 1/11 NOON REPLAY - 1/14 NOON REPLAY
1/17 7 P.M. LIVE - 1/18 NOON REPLAY - 1/21 NOON REPLAY
1/24 7 P.M. LIVE - 1/25 NOON REPLAY - 1/28 NOON REPLAY

BICYCLE SAFETY

9:30 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M. DAILY

WATERWISE GARDENING

10:30 A.M. AND 5:30 P.M. DAILY

TRAINED PERSONNEL ANSWER THE MAJORITY OF ALL 911 CALLS WITHIN TWO TO FOUR SECONDS.



Above, Paula Rodriguez and right, Pam Henly answer 911 emergency calls.



• "EMERGENCY" FROM PAGE 1

an extremely important role in providing information to officers that is essential for them to do their job.

The Morgan Hill Police Department is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for all calls placed within the city limits of Morgan Hill.

The 911 system in Morgan Hill directly links callers to police, fire and medical teams. The 911 system is an "enhanced" system that automatically provides the dispatcher with the caller's phone number and address within one to two seconds of dialing. This 911 enhanced feature is used to make sure that assistance will arrive even if the caller is unable to speak.

Added special equipment also enables the dispatcher to communicate with the deaf.

Residents in the county area of Morgan Hill will reach the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department when dialing 911. Those dialing 911 from a cellular phone will reach the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The CHP will connect the caller to the closest emergency service provider.

Residents, who dial 911 and need the fire department or an ambulance, will be automatically connected to a Central Fire District dispatcher.

Police Dispatch Center: "911 emergency, what are you reporting?"

Caller: "Yea, there's a man out here chasing another man with a knife."

Police Dispatch Center: "Sir, you're calling from Monterey and San Pedro, is that where the men are?"

Caller: "Yea, they are running northbound on Monterey towards Spring Ave now."

Police Dispatch Center: "Sir, stay on the line with me while my partner gets help coming. Can you describe the subjects to me—?"

All Morgan Hill dispatchers receive training as prescribed by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. They are required to complete a three-week basic dispatch academy. Dispatchers then complete an in-house intensive 4-6 month training program on Morgan Hill's geography, radio codes, California penal and vehicle codes, customer service and how to handle callers in crisis.

• SEE "EMERGENCY" NEXT PAGE

The Morgan Hill dispatch center staff includes eight full-time and two part-time dispatchers. There are generally two 911 dispatchers on duty 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. These dispatchers handle all 911 emergency, non-emergency, City Department of Public Works, and animal control calls for the 33,000 residents in the City of Morgan Hill.

Police Dispatch Center: "911 emergency, what are you reporting?"

Caller: "Well, this isn't exactly an emergency, but I was wondering if you could tell me the number to the library?"

Police Dispatch Center: "Ma'am, if you'll call back on our 24-hour non-emergency line, 779-2101, I'll be happy to look that number up for you."

Make 911 work for you. 911 should only be used when a true emergency exists. A true emergency is when immediate police, fire and medical response are needed.

An emergency is any serious medical problem, any type of fire or any life-threatening situation. A true emergency is when life and/or property are in immediate danger, when a crime is in progress or has just occurred, or when someone needs an ambulance.

When you dial 911, the call-taker/dispatcher will conduct a mini-interview to determine the type of emergency service needed. Questions will generally fall into the who, what where, when and why categories.

Briefly describe the type of incident you are reporting. For example, "I'm report-

ing a fire", or "I'm reporting an unconscious person," or "I'm reporting a shoplifter".

Be prepared to describe your location and the location of the emergency. Be prepared to describe the persons involved in the incident. This includes their race, sex, age, height, weight, color of hair, description of clothing, and presence of a hat, glasses or facial hair. Be prepared to describe any vehicles involved. This includes color, year, make, model and type of vehicle.

It's important to remain calm and speak clearly. Listen to the dispatcher and answer all the questions asked. The dispatcher must ask you specific questions in order to ensure you receive the kind of help you need. This generally takes less than 30-45 seconds. Often times the dispatcher will start emergency units and stay on the line to ask follow-up questions. **Do Not** hang up until the 911 dispatcher tells you to and follow any instructions the dispatcher gives to you.

If you dial 911 in error, **Do Not** hang up the telephone. Instead, stay on the line

and explain to the dispatcher that you dialed by mistake and do not have an emergency. If you hang up, a dispatcher will call back to confirm that there is no emergency. If you don't answer, a police officer will be dispatched to confirm that you are OK.

Do Not dial 911 for a non-emergency. Instead, dial the police department's 24-hour non-emergency telephone number 779-2101. A non-emergency is a situation that you need to report, but the incident is a past event and nonthreatening (not in progress, suspects are unknown or not seen).

Non-emergencies also are thefts of personal property, past criminal vandalism, or thefts from autos that occurred during the night. Anytime you are unsure of when to dial 911, it is always better to dial 911 than risk not getting the help you need.

911 service is an invaluable benefit to our community. Make it work for you. 📞

Article by Pam Henley, Police Support Service Specialist II, 779-2101.

COMMUNITY Event CALENDAR

COMPOST WORKSHOP • FEBRUARY 13

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, from 7-9PM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 299-4147.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED • FEBRUARY 19

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day.

HOUSING SYMPOSIUM

The City is planning a February date for its upcoming Housing Symposium. The symposium will be designed as a half day forum for City, local business leaders, housing developers and concerned citizens to focus on housing problems and solutions, and how some might be applied to Morgan Hill. Speakers will include design consultants as well as staff from local cities who are helping their communities create viable housing solutions. For more information, please contact Bill Newkirk of the City's Business Assistance and Housing Services Department at 776-7373 or newkirkb@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov.



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City Elected Officials

Mayor <i>Dennis Kennedy</i>	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore <i>Greg Sellers</i>	778-2370
Councilmember <i>Larry Carr</i>	779-9622
Councilmember <i>Hedy L. Chang</i>	778-0511
Councilmember <i>Steve Tate</i>	779-6992
City Clerk <i>Irma Torrez</i>	779-7259
City Treasurer <i>Michael Roorda</i>	778-3653

City Executive Staff

City Manager <i>J. Edward Tewes</i>
City Attorney <i>Helene L. Leichter</i>
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director <i>Garrett Toy</i>
Community Development Director <i>David Bischoff</i>
Council Services and Records Manager <i>Irma Torrez</i>
Finance Director <i>Jack Dilles</i>
Acting Human Resources Manager <i>Melissa Stevenson Dile</i>
Police Chief <i>Steve Schwab</i>
Public Works Director <i>Jim Ashcraft</i>
Recreation Manager <i>Julie Spier</i>

Contacting Your City

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM
Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assistance & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation	779-7271
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278

City Hall Fax Number 779-3117
City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

Contact The Editor

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.